

**Amendments to the Claims:**

Kindly rewrite the claims to read as follows:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. ***(Currently Amended)*** Lock mechanism for a dispenser in combination with an exchangeable roll of material, the roll being provided with at least one end plug (50) with a bearing pin (44) for mounting the roll to the lock mechanism of the dispenser, comprising:
  - a lock housing (12) with a guide slot (14) for insertion of the bearing pin (44), the guide slot having a first section (14') with a first width and a second section (14'') with a second width which is smaller than the first width, the first section and second section sections (14', 141') being arranged in a direction perpendicular to ~~the a~~ longitudinal extension of the guide slot (14) and in a longitudinal direction of the bearing pin (44) to be received;
  - a sliding element (16) mounted to the lock housing (12) and movable between a first position closing or narrowing the guide slot (14) and a second position opening the guide slot (14);
  - a lock element (18) mounted to the sliding element (16) and rotationally movable around an axis of rotation (24) between a locked position and an unlocked position;
  - the lock element (18) being provided with an engagement portion (23) which, in the locked position, is engaged with a locking geometry (32) of the lock housing (12).
2. ***(Currently Amended)*** Lock mechanism according to claim 1, ~~characterized in wherein~~ that the lock element (18) has an abutment portion (22) which, in the locked position, protrudes into the first section (14') of the guide slot.

3. **(Currently Amended)** Lock mechanism according to claim 1 ~~or 2, characterized in that,~~ wherein the engagement portion (23) of the lock element (18) is hook-shaped and, in the locked position, provides a form fit engagement with the locking geometry (32) of the lock housing (12).
4. **(Currently Amended)** Lock mechanism according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, further comprising an elastic element (20) biasing the lock element (18) into the locked position.
5. **(Currently Amended)** Lock mechanism according to claim 4, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the elastic element (20) ~~is~~ comprises a leaf spring exerting a biasing force on the lock element (18) at a distance from the axis of rotation (24) of the lock element (18).
6. **(Currently Amended)** Lock mechanism according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the sliding element (16) is provided with a beveled camming surface (54) which, in the first position of the sliding element (16), protrudes into the guide slot (14).
7. **(Currently Amended)** Lock mechanism according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the sliding element, in the first position, narrows the first section (14) of the guide slot.
8. **(Currently Amended)** Lock mechanism according to claim 6, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a mutual position of the abutment portion (22) of the lock element (18) and the beveled camming surface (54) of the sliding element (16) are such that, upon insertion of the bearing pin (44), first the bearing pin exerts a force on the abutment ~~nose~~ portion and articulates the lock element (18) out of engagement with the locking geometry (32) of the lock housing (12); and then the bearing pin (44) engages the camming surface (54) of the sliding element (16).
9. **(Currently Amended)** Lock mechanism according to ~~any of the preceding claims,~~ claim 1, wherein the guide slot (14) is straight.
10. **(Currently Amended)** Lock mechanism according to ~~any of the claims 1 to 8,~~ claim 1, wherein guide slot (14) is curved.

11. **(Currently Amended)** Lock mechanism according to ~~any of the preceding claims,~~ characterized in that claim 1, wherein the first width and the second width of the guide slot (14) are constant over the longitudinal extension of the guide slot (14) when the sliding element (16) is in the second position.

12. **(Currently Amended)** End plug (50) for a roll of material to be inserted into a lock mechanism according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, comprising:

- a receiving portion (40) with dimensions to fit into a hollow core of the roll of material; ~~and~~
- an abutment flange for abutment against the hollow core of the roll of material;  
and
- a bearing portion including ~~[[a]]~~ the bearing pin (44) with a first end and a second end (52) remote from the ~~receiving portion (40)~~ abutment flange; wherein
- the bearing pin (44) has ~~at least two diameter portions with different outer diameters,~~ a first diameter portion (44a) closer to the second end (52) of the bearing pin, with a larger diameter and a second diameter portion (44b) further remote from the second end (52) with, and a third diameter portion between the abutment flange and the second diameter portion, the second diameter portion having a smaller diameter than the first diameter portion and the third diameter portion (44a).

13. **(Currently Amended)** End plug according to claim 12, wherein the first and second diameter portions (44a, 44b) are contiguous with each other.

14. **(Currently Amended)** End plug according to claim 12 ~~or 13~~, wherein the first diameter portion (44a) has an outer diameter of at least 5mm and the second diameter (44b) portion has an outer diameter of ~~3, 5mm~~ 3.5 mm or less and an axial length exceeding ~~[[...]]~~ 1 mm.

15. **(Currently Amended)** End plug according to ~~any of the claims 12 to 14~~ claim 12, further comprising a plurality of radially extending ribs (46) ~~on the~~ an outer circumference of the receiving portion (40).

16. **(Currently Amended)** End plug according to ~~any of the claims 12 to 14~~ claim 12, further comprising a flange-shaped stop member (42) around the receiving portion (40) to limit the depth of insertion of the receiving portion (40) into the hollow core of the roll of material.

17. **(Currently Amended)** End plug according to ~~any of the claims 12 to 16~~, characterized in that claim 12, wherein the end plug (50) is integrally extruded from plastics material, especially PP or PE.

18. **(Currently Amended)** Use of an end plug according to ~~any of the claims 12 to 17~~ claim 12 for fitting into the hollow core of a roll of material, in particular a paper towel roll or tissue paper roll wound around the hollow core.

19. **(Currently Amended)** Roll of material for use in ~~[[a]]~~ the lock mechanism according to ~~any of the claims 1 to 11~~ and being provided, at least at one longitudinal end of the roll, with an end plug according to ~~any of the claims 12 to 17~~ claim 12.

20. **(Currently Amended)** Dispenser for exchangeable paper rolls, in particular tissue paper rolls, comprising

- a housing; and
- laterally extending receiving means for mounting a lock mechanism according to ~~any of the claims 1 to 11~~ claim 1.

21. **(Currently Amended)** Method for inserting an exchangeable roll of material with at least one end plug according to ~~any of the claims 12 to 17~~ into ~~[[a]]~~ the lock mechanism according to ~~any of the claims 1 to 11~~ claim 1, comprising the steps:

- (i) placing the roll of material into the lock mechanism such that the first diameter portion of the bearing pin enters the first section of the guide slot

and the second diameter portion of the bearing pin enters the second section of the guide slot;

- (ii) shifting the bearing pin of the end plug within the guide slot such that the first diameter portion comes into engagement with the lock element;
- (iii) further shifting the bearing pin of the end plug within the guide slot and effecting an articulation of the lock element around its axis of rotation from the locked position to the unlocked position in which the lock element is out of engagement with the locking geometry of the lock housing;
- (iv) further shifting the bearing pin of the end plug within the guide slot such that the bearing pin comes into engagement with the sliding element;
- (v) further shifting the bearing pin of the end plug within the guide slot such that the sliding element is shifted from the first position to the second position; and
- (vi) further shifting the bearing pin of the end plug within the guide slot until the bearing pin reaches an operation position, ~~preferably at a bottom surface of the guide slot.~~

22. **(Currently Amended)** Method according to claim 21, wherein, in steps (iii) and (v), the ~~movement shifting~~ of the bearing pin is effected with a force sufficient to overcome ~~the a~~ biasing force of an elastic element.

23. **(Currently Amended)** Method according to claim 21 ~~or 22, characterized in that~~ wherein, in step (iv) the second diameter portion of the bearing pin comes into engagement with the sliding element.

24. **(New)** The method according to claim 21, wherein the operation position is at a bottom of the guide slot.

- 25.     ***(New)*** The dispenser of claim 20, wherein the paper rolls comprise tissue paper rolls.
- 26.     ***(New)*** The use of an end plug according to claim 18, wherein the roll of material comprises a paper towel roll or a tissue paper roll wound around the hollow core.
- 27.     ***(New)*** The end plug of claim 17, wherein the plastics material comprises polypropelene or polyethylene.